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DOWNSEND SCHOOL

DOWNSEND TIMES

02 February 2018



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Welcome from the Headmaster

Downsend has been a hive of activity again this week, with the usual round of clubs and sporting fixtures to keep everyone occupied. In last week's assembly, I asked the whole school to cross its fingers in support of the Science Quiz Team at the University of Oxford last Friday. We were all thrilled to hear that Downsend had been crowned national champions, a truly remarkable achievement. Today sees Year 5 travelling to the O2 to sing in 'Young Voices'; I am sure that we will hear all about it next week.

Over recent months, we have continued to improve the security of the site in order to safeguard our pupils. This is a statutory requirement, as well as a moral obligation, and we need your support in adhering to the door opening times at the key entrance points: Turret (now manned in the afternoon), Sports Hall, Admin Block and Sports Pitches. Please do not prop gates open, as this breaks the locking mechanism and compromises the security of the site.

As news of entrance exam success comes in, we were delighted to welcome our own first batch of candidates to the new Downsend Senior School. They joined us for assembly this morning, had a tour of the school with their buddies, completed their assessments and problem-solving activities and enjoyed a hot chocolate in the Pavilion – assessment with a smile.

Enjoy the final week before the half-term break!

Ian Thorpe

Mufti Day - Cancelled

Please note that the Mufti Day on **Friday 9th February** published in the school diary has been **cancelled**.

Downsend Are The National Science Winners

A Science competition that starts with over 17,000 students participating in the first team selection process, 340 school teams of four students in round two, 100 teams in the semi-finals and 12 teams in the National finals and it is little wonder that Downsend are thrilled to have won the entire competition!

On Friday 26th January, the Downsend team of Brandon G, Khalil V, Angus W and Geoffrey L travelled to the Oxford University Museum of Natural History to compete in the national finals of the Quiz Club Science competition.

Having won the first round at Danes Hill with over 2000 points and the semi-final regional competition with an amazing score of 2170, an accuracy of 80%, we knew we were fielding a strong, consistent team. But would we keep this accuracy up? Would we cope with the pressure in the final round?

We quickly settled towards the top of the league table of 12 competing schools vying for 1st place, which for the first half was held by Monmouth School. At half time with a few big losses, but even more exceptional answers we were sitting comfortably in 2nd place with Westminster Under behind in 3rd.

The third round was both exciting and extremely close, with Downsend overtaking and only holding the lead with a 10 point difference.

With ten questions to go, Downsend continued to hold the lead with less than one question difference. However, they did hold their nerve, they worked exceptionally well as a team - discussing the tricky questions, listening to everyone's ideas and using strategy when needed. Slowly but surely they pulled away and opened up a gap of over 100 points from Monmouth and had secured victory with one question to go!

The Downsend team scored 2460 out of 2700 which is an accuracy of 91% and the highest ever final score in the 10 year history of Quiz Club. I am delighted to have been able to lead this talented team of gifted scientists and am proud to say that Downsend are the National Champions of Quiz Club Science 2018.

Tamsin Grocock



Hair Donation

Well done to Grace in Year 2 who had her very long hair cut at the weekend and, totally of her own choice, decided before the haircut that she would like to donate her ponytail to the Little Princess Trust who make wigs for children with cancer.

Grace may have been inspired by the Duchess of Cambridge's recent hair donation to the same charity. Well done Grace, we are all very proud of you - what a thoughtful thing to do.

Clare Kirkham



Year 7 'Love It' Bake Off



The Year 7 'Love It' Bake Off will be held on Tuesday 6th February. Please ensure your entry is submitted with the [allergy form](#).

Years 6,7 and 8 - remember to bring small amounts of cash to buy cakes at break time on Tuesday.

Beth Day

Lockdown Drill



We had our first Lockdown/Stay Safe Drill of the year on Tuesday morning and want to congratulate all the children for being incredibly sensible and mature, as we would expect. We are very conscious not to frighten children during such drills, however, this is a legal requirement and something we must be prepared for. We will look to conduct another unannounced drill later in the year, where we again appreciate your support and understanding. If we ever needed to implement this due to a real life scenario, all communication to parents would initially be through school comms.

Jon Albert

Toolkit for Raising Resilient Children

On Tuesday 20 February Downsend will again be hosting the 'Toolkit for Raising Resilient Children' programme in our Pavillion. This is a four-hour workshop for parents, exploring resilience and how to use specific techniques in order to develop more positive and resilient behaviours in our children. With an apparent increase in the pressures on young people we see this more and more as something that our children need our support with.

Feedback from our parents on previous workshops has been extremely positive and we encourage you to attend if you think that this will be of value to you.

You can book directly by following this link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/toolkit-for-raising-resilient-children-downsend-school-tickets-41920429132>

For more information please contact Julia Philpott on 07967 497779 / Julia@jpparentcoaching.co.uk or visit www.jpparentcoaching.co.uk.

Clare Kirkham and Karl Newland

A Toolkit for Raising Resilient Children



A four-hour workshop for parents, hosted by Downsend, exploring resilience and how to use specific techniques to develop positive and resilient behaviours in children

I want to help my daughter be more self-confident

How do I stop my son saying "I'm useless" when he makes a mistake?

I wish I could be more patient with my kids

Learn how your children can:

- become emotionally resilient
- have really positive self-talk
- demonstrate confident body language
- be responsible and accountable
- solve problems resourcefully



Facilitator: Julia Philpott

Julia Philpott has a background in corporate executive development and is qualified in both coaching and psychology. She combines these skills with her experience as a parent to offer a range of tools and techniques, so that parents can help their children navigate the primary school years with confidence.

Details: Tuesday 20th February, 9am – 1pm, Downsend School

Price: £50 per person

For more information and to book contact the School Office, or get in touch with Julia Philpott on julia@jpparentcoaching.co.uk, 07967 497779 and at www.jpparentcoaching.co.uk

Below is a quote from a delegate who attended the workshop last week:

"I just wanted to say thank you for yesterday, we really enjoyed the course and found that so many of the experiences you shared resonated with us. We've already put into practice some of your tools with great success. Bedtime, which is often a problem in our house, went really well. We set out the ground rules beforehand and explained consequences for not staying in bed. Although two of our boys came back down after being settled they accepted the consequences, there was no shouting from us or them and they went back off to bed and slept until morning (unheard of!)."

News from the DPA



Thank you to all of you that popped along to the Uniform Shop yesterday to grab some bargains. It was very successful and posters of the next sales and intakes will be on the DPA notice boards shortly

VOLUNTEERS

We have a couple of events coming up in the next few months , that we need some volunteers for:

LIBRARY BOOK SALE

- **Wednesday 28th February & Thursday 1st March** from 3.30pm – 5.10pm, we need 3 volunteers on each day to help Karen Cresswell in the Library for the Annual Sale.

LOWER SCHOOL EASTER PLANTING EVENT

- Every Year the DPA do an Easter activity on the last day of term in the school for both Lower and Upper school. The Upper School is already sorted, but we need 18 volunteers to help with the Easter planting event for Lower School. This will be in classrooms and you will need to sign in at reception and be in Peterborough Hall by 11am. You then go in pairs into a Lower School classroom to help the children with their activities. The activity will last around 1.5hrs. This is a lovely event that both parents and grandparents can help with.

If you are able to commit to help at any of these events, please email admin@dpaschool.org.uk and you will added to the helpers list for your chosen event.

Maxine Homewood, DPA Chair

Uniform Shop



NEXT UNIFORM SALE

Friday 16th March – Social Area

3.45pm – 5pm

(Access via the turret)

NEXT INTAKE OF UNIFORM

Thursday 22nd Feb – Turret

8.30 – 9am

Any queries re the uniform please email admin@dpschool.org.uk. If you are interested in volunteering to help in the uniform shop then we always need help so please let us know via the same email address.

Maxine Homewood, DPA Chair

2018 Ski Trip

Please ensure that you send a scanned copy of both your child's passport and EHIC card to dee.vanstone@downsend.co.uk by half term at the latest.

Dee Vanstone

News From Our Pre-Preps

Global Explorers Day at Ashtead Pre-Prep

Last Friday the children were armed with passports as they set off on their travels during our 'Global Explorers' day. The teachers had arranged an array of activities in different parts of the school. First Steps and Rising Reception packed their bags, jumped on a plane and made binoculars which were just right for spotting wild animals on a safari. Reception and Year One made a compass and flew off to countries all over the world. They visited Egypt to build pyramids and read hieroglyphics, then travelled on to Mexico to create, and eat, a tangy Mexican wrap. To finish their day of discovery, the children managed to get in quite a tangle as a 'Continental Twister' put them all in a spin! What a fantastic way to learn about the diversity of our planet.

Tessa Roberts





Music Update



UPDATE ON MUSIC ENSEMBLES

The **Lower School Choir** has got too big - this is a wonderful problem to have!

From now on we will have

- a **Year 2 & 3** Choir (they will meet at **10.15am on Fridays**)
- a **Year 4 & 5** Choir (they will meet at **10.15am on Mondays**)

Next week will be the last time that pupils can join one of these choirs before we begin to prepare seriously for the Spring Concert at the end of term. All they have to do is come along.



Also, please note:

The **Lower School Orchestra** meets at **12.45pm on Tuesdays**. All instrumentalists in **Years 3, 4 and 5** should be playing in this orchestra. All they need to do is come along.

The **Whole School orchestra** meets at **1.15pm on Wednesdays**. Participation in this ensemble is by invitation.

***NEW* Flute Ensemble** starts after half term. All flutists in the Lower School are welcome. The group will meet on Tuesdays at 10.15am Please see Mrs Allison to sign up.



Music Clubs and Ensembles

For a full list of Music Ensembles please see [here](#).

Instrumental Lessons at Downsend School

If your child would like to learn an instrument at Downsend with one of our tutors then please email the Head of Music at nicole.allison@downsend.co.uk. For more information about how the music lessons work, please click [here](#). Currently we have tutors for the following instruments:

Flute, Recorder, Oboe, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, French Horn, Tuba, Electric Guitar, Acoustic Guitar, Mandolin, Bass Guitar, Drum Kit, Percussion, Ukulele, Violin, Viola and Piano.

If your child would like to play an instrument that is not listed above, please let me know and I will try to source a tutor for you.

Nicole Allison

Next Week @ Downsend

School Events



Date	Time	Event
Tuesday 06 February	All day	Yr 2 Visit to The Living Rainforest
Wednesday 07 February	am	Yr 5 Maths Quest
	2.45pm	Yrs 7 & 8 Inter House Netball
	6.30pm	Yr 7 Parent-Teacher Interviews, Dining Hall
Thursday 08 February	All day	Yr 2 Forest School Visit @ Downsend
	2.30pm	Yr 5 Inter house Rugby
	6.30pm	Yrs 2 & 3 Parent-Teacher Interviews, Peterborough Hall
Friday 09 February	Assembly	Mrs I Thorpe
	All day	Yr 6 trip to The Globe
	am	Upper School Scholarship Assessments
	2.30pm	Yr 2 Sports Activity Afternoon @St Teresa's



Downsend+

Please find below details of the Easter and May Downsend+ programmes which we are now taking bookings for.

Also below are details of this summer's Tennis and Cricket courses, please note the early booking discount available on all bookings received and paid for in full by Friday 6 April.

For all enquires please email downsendplus@downsend.co.uk or call 07909 861 280

[Contact Form 2017-2018](#)

[October, Christmas and February Course Description](#)

[February half term 2018 Booking Form](#)

[Easter and May Half Term Description](#)

[Easter 2018](#)

[May Half Term 2018](#)

[Summer 2018 Tennis Cricket Booking Form](#)

Rebecca Peek

School Notices

Contact Details

Please email office@downsend.co.uk if any of your contact details change. Most communication regarding school matches, meetings and other general school information is sent via email or text message.

Medical Details

Please email nurse@downsend.co.uk if any of your child's medical details change or return a hard copy to the School Office.

Downsend Times

Should you wish to add any additional family members to the weekly distribution list then please email their details to editor@downsend.co.uk

Downsend Sports Bulletin

If you do not already receive the Downsend Sports Bulletin on a Wednesday and would like to start receiving it then please email your details to editor@downsend.co.uk to be added to the distribution list.

Inspiring young minds

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